

Nuclear Security Summit concludes in a safer America

Written by Mike Honda
Tuesday, 04 May 2010 12:44

Giving peace of mind for the American people, the summit successfully ended with countries agreeing to secure hundreds of thousands of existing bombs with plutonium and highly enriched uranium to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorist groups like Al Qaeda. Following on the success of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia only a few weeks ago, developed and developing countries both acknowledged for the first time that nuclear security must be a top priority. Countries like Ukraine agreed to surrender all their enriched uranium to the United States by 2014. Although individual targets for nuclear reduction remain voluntary, U.S. leadership has encouraged all participating countries to sign an agreement to reconvene in two years in South Korea, to shed light on North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

While I do agree that nuclear weapons are an important part of our national defense infrastructure, world perception of our seriousness to nonproliferation has deteriorated and made international cooperation difficult, especially from developing countries. In the 111th Congress, I was proud to co-sponsor initiatives, such as H.RES.278, the Global Security Priorities Resolution by Representative James McGovern, urging the President for stronger unilateral initiative for creating broader cooperation including third world countries and starting talks with Russia.

The summit is a great first step towards achieving a consensus on securing and reducing the world's nuclear weapons, especially in a post 9/11 world.